

REMARKS

The rejections of Claims 1-4 and 9-20 as being anticipated by EP '180 and by JP '573 under 35 USC §102(b) and of Claims 5-8 as being unpatentable over either of EP '180 or JP '573 under 35 USC §103(a) are traversed, and reconsideration of each of the four rejections is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Initially, however, clarification is requested with regard to the status of Claims 21 and 22. The Office Action has not rejected either claim or considered them to be withdrawn.

Applicants attach hereto annotated copies of Fig. 4 of the present invention, Fig. 5 of the JP '573 document and Fig. 2A of the EP '180 document. These annotated views clearly show that the Office Action has not correctly discerned the claimed first and second surfaces of the lead frame and thus has incorrectly read the structure of the JP '573 and EP '180 documents upon that claimed structure.

Claim 1 has now been modified to include the features of now cancelled Claim 11. Applicants also attached annotated "explanation" views using Figs. 2, 5 and 9. As can be seen in the annotated Figs. 2 and 5, part of the lead frame in one-piece is prevented from being covered by the sealing resin to protrude from the sealing resin in a direction (i.e., the protruding direction) perpendicular to

the thickness and transverse directions. The imaginary plane extends perpendicular to the protruding direction.

No such arrangement is shown or even suggested in the devices shown in the JP '573 and EP '180 documents.

The claims of the present application also cover the embodiment of Fig. 9. The attached "explanation" view using Fig. 9 should be referred to with regard to amended Claim 14. Part of the lead frame is prevented from being covered by the sealing resin in that embodiment so as to protrude from the sealing resin in a direction perpendicular to the thickness and transverse directions. A width between the other end and the end in the cross sectional view is smaller than a width of the part of the lead frame in the transverse direction.

Again, no such features are taught or suggested by the prior art. The same is true with regard to Claim 21 which in the attached annotated Fig. 4 shows that the second surface as a reverse surface of the lead frame is prevented from fronting the reverse surface of the substrate in the thickness direction and is covered by the sealing resin.

This teaching is totally absent from the prior art.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056203.52639US).

Respectfully submitted,

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